

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

THE DAILY HERALD, published every day in the
year, four cents per copy. Annual subscription
price \$12.

All business or news letters and telegraphic
despatches must be addressed New York
Herald.

Letters and packages should be properly
sealed.

LONDON OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK
HERALD—NO. 46 FLEET STREET.

Subscriptions and Advertisements will be
received and forwarded on the same terms
as in New York.

Volume XXXIX.....No. 91

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING

BOOTH'S THEATRE.
Sixth avenue and Twelfth street—ZIP at 7:30 P. M.;
clothes at 10:30 P. M.

WALLACK'S THEATRE.
Broadway and Thirtieth street—CENTRAL PARK, at
7 P. M.; clothes at 11 P. M. Mr. Lester Wallace.

MRS. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.
Washington street, near Fulton street, Brooklyn—
CHARITY, at 8 P. M.; clothes at 11 P. M. Miss Minnie
Conway.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.
Broadway, between Houston and Bleeker streets—
YAGDEVILS and SINGERS' ENTERTAINMENT, at
7:30 P. M.; clothes at 10:30 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

ACADAMY OF MUSIC.
Fourteenth street—Strakosch Italian Opera Troupe—
LA FAVORITA, at 8 P. M.; clothes at 11 P. M. M. M. M.
Luca, Signor Campanini.

BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE.
opposite City Hall, Brooklyn—NECK AND NECK, at 8
P. M.; clothes at 11 P. M. R. T. Stetson.

BOWERY THEATRE.
Bowery—THE POLISH JAW AND VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, begins at 8 P. M.; clothes at 11 P. M.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE.
No. 85 Broadway—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at
7 P. M.; clothes at 10:30 P. M.

NIBLO'S GARDEN.
Broadway, between Prince and Houston streets—DATT
GROUNTS, at 8 P. M.; clothes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Frank
Mayo.

LYCEUM THEATRE.
Fourth street, near Sixth street—French Opera
Bouffe—LA FILLE DE MADAME ANGOT, at 8 P. M.;
clothes at 10:30 P. M. M. M. M. M. M.

WOODS MUSEUM.
Broadway, corner Thirtieth street—UNCLE TOM'S
CABIN, at 8 P. M.; clothes at 11 P. M. LITTLE RIFLE
at 8 P. M.; clothes at 10:30 P. M.

DALY'S FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.
Twenty-fifth street and Broadway—CHARITY, at 8 P.
M.; clothes at 10:30 P. M. Miss Ada Dyas, Miss Fanny
Davenport, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Lewis.

THEATRE COMIQUE.
No. 314 Broadway—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8
P. M.; clothes at 10:30 P. M.

GERMANIA THEATRE.
Fourth street, near Irving place—LOHENGRIN, at
8 P. M.; clothes at 11 P. M.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE.
No. 201 Bowery—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8 P.
M.; clothes at 11 P. M.

BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE.
Twenty-third street, near Sixth street—NEGRO MIN-
STRELSKY, at 8 P. M.; clothes at 10:30 P. M.

COLOSSEUM.
Broadway, corner Thirtieth street—PARIS BY
MOONLIGHT, at 8 P. M.; clothes at 10:30 P. M. same at 7 P.
M.; clothes at 10 P. M.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Wednesday, April 1, 1874.

From our reports this morning the probabilities
are that the weather to-day will be cold, with
snow and rain.

"ANYTHING WHICH WEAKENS PUBLIC CON-
FIDENCE impairs the growth of industry."
I cannot pass over even the gigantic
wickedness of our government in printing lies
by the hundred thousand.—Henry Ward
Beecher.

THE OLD STORY AT ALBANY.—The Supply
bill is before the State Legislature, and the
usual amount of picking and stealing ap-
pears to be in order. Messengers who have
been hanging about the houses without
authority step forward and request pay for
their services; lazy doorknockers ask for in-
creased remuneration; the leeches who suck
the blood of the State, session after session,
are all busily at work, and, of course, they
find some kind-hearted member who is liberal
with the public money to advocate their im-
pudent demands. At the same time bolder
attempts at stealing are not lacking, and it
appears probable that the Supply bill of this
year will be fully as prodigal and corrupt as
any of its predecessors.

The possibility of a new issue of inconvertible
paper I regard with amazement and anxiety, and,
in my judgment, such an issue would be a detri-
ment and a shame.—CHARLES SUMNER.

THE STORM OF YESTERDAY.—Yesterday morn-
ing's weather predictions notified us to
expect snow and rain in this section of the
country, and they duly put in their appear-
ance. This spurt of snow is one of those
exceptional freaks of the weather which
is wont to spring upon us, especially during
the rapid equinoctial changes. The
storm appears to have been widespread and
the rainfall to have covered all the Western
States bordering on the Ohio and Mississippi
rivers. This watering of the country will
doubtless be appreciated by the agricultural
interests, which are benefited by it. The
cold which attended it has been too early to
hurt the fruit trees, which have not yet been
sufficiently developed by the season to suffer,
and the effect will be beneficial to them
by retarding their blossoming. The storm,
which is now reported south of us and
as likely to move along the seaboard, is liable
at this period of the equinox to become dan-
gerous to vessels leaving port to-day, and it
ought to be carefully watched.

VOICES FROM HOME.—The reports we print
elsewhere as to the condition of trade in New
York are only so many arguments against the
unfortunate spirit of inflation which seems to
pervade Congress. Although there is every rea-
son why there should be unusual activity in
trade, abundant demand in the markets and an
increase of industry and commerce, we see in
all directions the results of inflation. There
is an uncertainty about all business interests
that makes any genuine business impossible.
What we see now only presages the evils to
come unless wisdom resumes her sway in
Congress and legislation becomes honest and
patriotic and expressive of the best interests
of the country.

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Our National Condition—The West and the East in Congress.

Bacon grouped together as the four pillars
of government "religion, justice, counsel and
treasure," and he said when any of these
"are mainly shaken or weakened men have
need to pray for fair weather." We certainly
have reason to pray for fair weather so far as
the Senate is concerned. The inflationists in
that body maintained a solid front yesterday,
voting against every amendment calculated to
protect the honor of the country with a uni-
mity reminding us of the votes of the slave-
holders before the war. Again we see the
West and South combining sectionally and
voting against the North and East—resolved, it
would seem, to drive the country into the
Niagara currents of bankruptcy and repudi-
ation.

Certainly when religion and justice fail and
there is no restraint upon men by fear of pun-
ishment either in this world or the next, and
when a nation is at once bankrupt in its
finances, without wise direction in its govern-
ment and exposed to the unrestrained en-
deavors of the worst and most violent and most
ignorant of its people, its condition is as bad
as possible; and if praying is still of any use
it has, at least, the advantage of being the
only remedy that presents any promise, how-
ever vague.

Is this the condition of the United States at
the present moment?

As to treasure, what is our condition? National bankruptcy and dishonor are before us, not as necessary results, but solely as the consequences of incapacity and folly. With Congress at the bottom of the Atlantic and a man in the Treasury with capacity enough to act intelligently on the laws in existence the finances would right themselves, for the country is rich. Its actual prosperity in valuable products would meet every possible necessity. Even the great panic of last year might have been far from an unmixt evil if its results had been wisely met; for it stopped our importations, so that the difference against us on foreign trade was but fifty-seven millions in eleven months of 1873, against one hundred and forty-three millions for a similar period of 1872, and it cut away all the balloon enterprises, all the vast and beautiful speculations that were threatening ruin to legitimate activities by their brilliant promise of sudden wealth to investors. With the money market somewhat sobered by that event and the finances absolutely left as they were by government, trade and industry would have recovered themselves naturally, and we might have continued the steady progress we were at one time making in the appreciation of our paper money, and could have seen our way clear to the fulfillment of the national pledges in regard to legal tenders. With our feet once more on the solid earth as to finance; with the irredeemable currency put behind us like another Satan, almost any future was possible to a people of our unconquerable energy and industry and a country producing enormous crops of products not to be had save here.

But all that prosperity, to be had with such very little wisdom, is to be put away from us because a section of the people is as mad on the financial topic as the people have usually been on nearly every other topic that has come before them. In the good old days, if the son of a Massachusetts deacon had the toothache the people were sure it was because he was bewitched by some old woman, and their cure for the toothache was to broil the old woman. If in a besieged town the crowded and half-starved people died by the score with typhus fever the people thought it must be because some one had poisoned the wells, and, therefore, they massacred any objectionable parties they could find in the town—generally the Jews, if there were any Jews. And with this same sort of wonderful wisdom the Western people have applied their mighty intellects to the financial problem—and settled it of course. They find that the reason they are poor is because there is not enough money in the country, and that the remedy is to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to print some more. They also find representatives in Congress no wiser than themselves, or, if perhaps a little wiser, quite ready to bargain for some momentary popularity by doing any act for which their mischievous fancy may call.

Already, with this readiness, they have un-
done what good had been done in the manage-
ment of the finances since the war; they have increased the legal tender currency by forty-four millions; they have erased from Senator Sherman's financial bill the only line which seemed to indicate that there was a sense of honor in the nation; they will either add largely to the national bank issues or make such a free banking law as will flood the country with the "cheap" money they call for—which will be worth from five to ten cents, perhaps, for each dollar, and when this is all done, and the whole Western wisdom is applied, just as it gets fairly in operation there will be a remarkable explosion. There will come a financial cataclysm the equal of which has never been seen in this country, and which will prostrate everybody and everything in industry, commerce or finance. That will come just about the time the country will be called upon to choose another President; but it will be a small consolation to know that the public indignation will then absolutely destroy the republican party and every man who has pandered to this present madness.

Such is our condition as to treasure, and the very statement involves our condition as to the other three pillars; for the same inflation of the currency that cripples our wealth-producing power implies also irreligion, injustice and a want of counsel—an absence of knowledge of financial facts and principles that would seem incredible in the Congress of a commercial people if we had not heard from Senator Morton the theory of American superiority to principles and knowledge. Congress casts away—it absolutely scorns—the provision of Sherman's bill that kept in view a solemn national pledge. It thus deliberately lays a perjury on the soul of the nation; insults by a deliberate vote the faith of the people that their solemn pledge, made at an awful crisis in the nation's life, was not mere empty and meaningless verbiage.

All this is our Western civilization; and to see it thus in operation on a great point of common national interest, and to see its indifference to all that we regard as either sacred or wise; to experience the ease with which in the national councils this Western world can

thrust us aside as occasion requires or clamor prompts, is to give us a glimpse of the future prepared for us. Already in the first collision of interest or opinion the ultimate result seems clear; but we shall be wise if we henceforth view national politics with regard mainly to the relations between the West and the old States of the Atlantic slope; for the line is definitely drawn by the Western people themselves, in whose interest solely hereafter it would seem the laws are to be made.

The possibility of a new issue of inconvertible paper I regard with amazement and anxiety, and, in my judgment, such an issue would be a detriment and a shame.—CHARLES SUMNER.

Street Obstructions and the Permit Bureau.

The Board of Aldermen recently passed an ordinance which abolishes the "Permit" Bureau in the Mayor's office, repeals "all ordinances or parts of ordinances which impose a penalty or penalties" for obstructing the streets and sidewalks, and discontinues all proceedings in relation to such penalties. But the Commissioner of Public Works is "authorized and directed to prevent" any obstruction of the said streets and sidewalks. The Permit Bureau is, no doubt, a nuisance and capable of being made a corrupt one as well. It should be abolished, and what the law pronounces an "obstruction" should not be permitted by the license of the Mayor or of any other authority. The rights of owners and occupants and of the public are clearly defined and easily understood. Every owner or occupant has a right to receive and deliver goods from the road across the sidewalk into his store and to use the road and sidewalk for that purpose in a reasonable manner. The public, however, has a right to free and unobstructed travel, and hence no unreasonable use can be made of the streets by individuals to the obstruction of travel. The Aldermen, by repealing all penalties for unduly obstructing the streets, in fact remove all restrictions and allow the streets to be obstructed with impunity. To be sure they say that the Commissioner of Public Works, who already has quite enough on his hands, shall "prevent" such obstructions, but how is he to do it? It is like abolishing all punishment for stealing, but declaring that the police may "prevent" robbery. Besides, to authorize the Public Works Department, or any other department, to "prevent" obstructions without any law or ordinance to define in what manner it is to be done, would be to give the department an unlimited and discretionary power, and would compel the organization of a force as large as that of the police.

The Assistant Aldermen seem disposed to exercise common sense in this matter. They have referred the ordinance to a committee, and will, no doubt, either reject it or considerably alter its provisions. Let them abolish the Permit Bureau if they will; but the present penalties for obstructing the sidewalks willfully and needlessly should not be repealed. Every business man or storekeeper charged with obstructing the street has now a fair trial, and the courts do not decide harshly on such cases. Remove these restrictions and penalties, and the roads and sidewalks would soon become impassable. The people are enough troubled with obstructions as it is.

Steam Lanes.

A few years ago the very expression, "steam lanes," was unknown. It has now passed into maritime parlance, and steam lanes are a reality. Yet there is no stringent police of the seas, no absolute law which requires a steamer to follow an accurately defined track, as the railway locomotive keeps always to its rail—that is, when the engineer is not too enterprising. What we demand is that there should be a more rigorous police of the seas, and that they should no longer constitute "the trackless ocean," but that an international marine empire should be founded, in which routes of travel should be as closely followed as on the land. England, France, Holland, Germany and the United States could establish steam lanes by a little patient and humane effort. Now is the proper season to take the initiative. The British Parliament is in session, Congress is in session and the interchanging streams of transatlantic travel are beginning to drain either continent of valuable lives. The charts of Maury, the logbooks of the different steamship lines, and the activity and intelligence of the Signal Service Bureau could easily indicate the exact course that would be at once safe and free from violent cyclones and to southward of the icebergs. It is estimated that one hundred thousand Americans visit Europe annually. Among them are thousands of timid women and children. If this large class could know that there is a law which compels a steamship to keep to a definite course, prohibiting it from diverging therefrom in obedience to mercenary or other considerations, travel would undoubtedly increase and safety on the sea would be rendered almost a certainty. We thank those lines that have already adopted our suggestions, and we hope that legislation and negotiation will at no distant day render steam lanes obligatory.

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THE IRREPRESSIBLE WHALLEY.—Chief Justice Cockburn committed an unfortunate blunder in arresting and fining Mr. Whalley for contempt of court. But judges cannot always control their temper, and the little of that rare quality which Cockburn possessed was overtaken in the Tichborne case. Had the Judge to deal with a less belittling person than the unconquerable champion of civil and religious liberty he might have wriggled out of the breach of privilege which he committed in sending a member of Parliament to prison. But Whalley is not to be appeased; that dogmatic champion has had his feelings outraged, and nothing less than the scalp or wig of the Chief Justice will satisfy him. The lawyer endeavored by a sharp device to have his action approved by Parliament before Whalley could open his civil and religious batteries on the Bench, but the maneuver failed, and the redoubtable Whalley has given notice that he will bring his case before the House of Commons in person. A very nice point of privilege is involved, and Chief Justice may be obliged to eat humble pie. But whatever the issue may be the encounter will be full of interest.

More Talk Than Sense.

The verdict, as it was called, of the Council recently held in Brooklyn, will be talked of for at least a week longer through the length and breadth of the land. We have read it carefully three or four times, have asked our profane as well as our religious friends what it means, and have as yet found no one who can give us an intelligible answer. The document is a literary curiosity. We have consulted eminent lawyers, and they have assured us that no paper of equal ambiguity has ever come under their notice before. We have rushed frantically and with uncovered head into the presence of renowned doctors of divinity, whose furrowed brows indicate the possibility of having attended every Council since the Reformation, and who have dug among the Councils of previous ages, as the Palestine Exploring Expedition are digging among the ruins of Moab, and we have besought them, with tears in our eyes, to tell us on great ecclesiastical broil; but in vain. They have required so much time for deliberation that the Herald printing press would become worthless through rust before they could make up their minds.

And now we sit anxiously in our easy chair, in perfect despair of ever being able to tell our readers what the real rendering is. Never in our lives were we so befogged. We have had experience with every kind of document, but never ran across one that came so near to meaning something and missed the mark as this does. We have read it with spectacles on and with spectacles off; we have put it under a powerful microscope, hoping thereby to learn the subtle secret; we have had it nailed to the steeple of Trinity and looked at it for hours through a telescope with a four-inch lens, and we confess to being well nigh distracted at our inability to get the first glimmer of sense from the paper. Sometimes we are half inclined to think that Mr. Beecher has been censured, and then, again, we feel quite sure that Drs. Budington and Storrs have been rhetorically rattanned; and then, once again, we get the impression that the Council thought all three bad boys, and that they had been duped in having been convened to help somebody pick a quarrel with some one else. As Stephen Blackpool said, "It's aw a muddle."

However, the Council has done a service to the quiddities of the community for which they cannot be too grateful. It has made it perfectly proper to talk gossip in respectable society. That old scandal, which was just closing its eyes in a peaceful death, has been revived by the electric eloquence of a special and specious plea. It has been stamped with the image and superscription of ecclesiastical criticism, and will pass current, like the trade dollar, in every climate. We do not say that the two accusing churches had this end in view, for that would be unfair to gentlemen who have a divine right to quarrel with any one; but if this had been their purpose they would have done exactly what they have done. We do not say they were at all envious of Mr. Beecher's success and influence, for they are too honorable to have such motives imputed to them, but if they had been envious they would have called just such a Council and laid before it the very propositions upon which it deliberated. It is so far from us to impugn any one's motives that we beseech the entire community to put such an opinion behind them.

Still, Mr. Beecher is in the way. That is the stern fact. It would be such a pity to lose an opportunity to injure his influence that it would be quite right, in our judgment, to call a Council at any time to decide, say, for instance, the northwest boundary of a theological hair, provided Mr. Tilton could be induced to send in a couple of letters about Plymouth church. Mr. Beecher seems to be the pepper and salt, without which all ecclesiastical food is insipid. We seriously recommend the clergy to lay aside their spectacles and their white neckties and become cannibals for a season. They might then institute a feast and sup on the popular preacher. Very happy results might ensue. If it is true that what we eat makes us what we are, and that a change of diet effects a corresponding change throughout, we have no doubt that after the banquet better sermons would be preached than ever before. Even the morsel of Beecher allotted to each one would make such a general change that preachers' sore throats would be less frequent, the old dry bones of the usual Sunday sermon would be laid in a decent grave, and there would be religious thunder and lightning all round the horizon.

So far as we have been able to make it out the clergy and lay delegates mean to say to Mr. Beecher by that verdict, "You have done nothing that requires censure and you must not do it again." Whereupon Plymouth church seizes upon the first clause and insists that the Council decided in its favor; and the congregations of the accusing churches seize upon the last clause and insist that the verdict is in their favor. This fact remains—that it took the wisdom of the whole country four days to put the opinion of the majority into hieroglyphics. What is greatly needed just now is another Council to interpret the language of this one, and then, in good time, we shall want still another to interpret the doings of that one, and so on indefinitely.

Great seas have little seas upon their backs to bite 'em. And little seas have lesser seas and so ad infinitum.

Well, gentlemen, these personal quarrels do more harm than all your sermons do good. The people will soon begin to think they must do as you say and not as you do. When you shall have done with private animosities and learn to care so much for souls that you have no time to investigate gossip, ordinary folk will be glad to hear you preach. Until then, empty pews will be the people's verdict on you and your Councils.

THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATORSHIP.—There is some probability that the election of Senator for Massachusetts will be decided by the democrats, as the hostile factions among the republicans have declared war to the knife. The sorehead republicans and the democrats could now decide the election by a coalition, and there seems good reason to suppose that such a fusion will take place on a moderate republican. The chances of the administration candidate are not promising. So far only ninety-five votes have been declared for Dawes, while one hundred and thirty-eight are necessary for a choice.

The Assembly Committee and the Vanderbilt Rapid Transit Bill.

The Railroad Committee of the Assembly has so far yielded to the pressure of public opinion as to report the Eastman and other rapid transit bills for the consideration of the House, instead of suppressing them in the committee room, as it was evidently disposed to do. At the same time the committee has signified its warm friendship for Commodore Vanderbilt by assailing in its report the proposition for the creation of a Rapid Transit Commission—a proposition which is very generally favored by the citizens of New York. We need scarcely say that the reasons given by the committee for its opposition to a commission are so weak as to bear the unmistakable evidence of insincerity. Mr. Lincoln, of Ontario, and his associates think it would be altogether improper that a rapid transit road should be built by the city; but why? Suppose the taxpayers of New York and the citizens generally are in favor of the construction of such a road as a public work, why should Mr. Lincoln, of Ontario and Mr. Smith Weed, of Clinton, object? We have repeatedly said that if any doubts exist in the patriotic minds of our representatives at Albany as to the wishes of the people of New York on this point their consciences can be readily satisfied by providing in the bill that before the commission shall build a road on the public credit they shall submit the question to the popular vote at a general election. But our Clinton and Oneida guardians say, "Your committee are of the opinion that no commission can be provided that will construct a rapid transit road unless built by the city," and they base this opinion on the fact that "capitalists will not put their money into the hands of commissioners to be expended for them," but will "demand a voice in its expenditure and in its control."

Now, the members of the committee are not simpletons. On the contrary, they are supposed to be sharp, shrewd and very practical men. They know that a rapid transit commission would simply stand in the position of the Legislature, and would decide, as the Legislature decides, under what conditions private capital should be allowed to enjoy the franchise. The "capitalists" who might build the road would no more be required to "put their money into the hands of the commissioners" than they would be required to "put their money into the hands" of legislators—perhaps, indeed, not so much. But the commission would guard the interests of the people; would insure the construction of the road and not allow a franchise to be held by a grantee only to exclude other capitalists and kill all rapid transit; would take care that a steam railroad, if built, should be run for the convenience of the citizens of New York, and not for the convenience and profit of railroad corporations. In a word, a commission would take care not only that rapid transit should be secured, but that it should be such rapid transit as the public necessity demands.

The Assembly Railroad Committee, of course, regards these as very needless precautions. Otherwise it would not have had the effrontery to propose to deal with the public interests of the metropolis as they are dealt with in the Vanderbilt Rapid Transit bill. That bill is as atrocious an outrage on the people of New York as was ever attempted by any of the Legislatures which in past years used to do the bidding of Tweed and march up in droves, after a vote, to receive the wages of their service. There is no attempt even to veil the fact that it is a bill not for rapid transit for the residents of New York, but for the profit and advantage of the Harlem and Hudson River Railroad companies to accommodate their freight and through travel. At the same time it gives away the public property to the extent of millions of dollars to Mr. Vanderbilt; it allows him to seize bodily upon the City Hall Park, to destroy Park avenue, to appropriate Union square if he should require to do so, to take private property, to sweep away existing chartered rights, to take and use without compensation "any public grounds, parks or places" for "connections, approaches, stairways, stations or platforms." In a word, it yields to Mr. Vanderbilt all the public property he may require and gives him absolute power over the streets and avenues on his line and branches, which latter appear to be unrestricted. It is a bill for which Mr. Vanderbilt could afford to pay two million dollars, and to secure which, should he be so disposed, he could pension off a hundred country lawyers and grocers for the balance of their natural lives.

As the Railroad Committee of the Assembly favors such a measure as this its members cannot, of course, regard a rapid transit commission as desirable. But the people of New York will look upon the Vanderbilt bill as an unequalled outrage, and neither the frothy eloquence of Alvord nor the effrontery of Lincoln will suffice to remove the suspicion that must attach to its supporters.

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The Lenten Season of Music.

The season which, in a religious point of view, is supposed to be especially devoted to penitential exercises, has this year been unusually prolific of music. We have had opera in every shape and language, from the fashionable loges of the Academy to the dingy precincts of the Stadt. In Italian opera the metropolitan public has enjoyed the most brilliant performances ever known in this city, with Mme. Christine Nilsson, Signor Campanini and the other artists of the Strakosch troupe, and in the production of "Lohengrin" the climax of success was reached, so far as the management is concerned. This week a new feature will be added to this company in the person of Mme. Pauline Luca, who makes her first appearance this evening in her best rôle, Leonora, in "La Favorita." Notwithstanding the manifold attractions of the Italian opera, the seductive influences of German grand opera at the Stadt Theatre, French opera bouffe at the Lyceum Theatre, English opera across the river, German opera bouffe at the Germania Theatre, Theodore Thomas at Steinway Hall, Signor Albites at Irving Hall and a dozen "Stabat Maters" had their effect upon the public. No city in Europe has been able to furnish in the same season such an array of

musical attractions. And Easter brings still greater promise in the announcement of the first appearance of Mlle. Ilma di Munka at the Academy. New York has now become an *entrepôt* of lyric art and may claim equality with, if not precedence of, any of the boasted operatic centres of Europe. Certainly our season's programme is larger and of more artistic value than anything that can be shown on the other side of the Atlantic.

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The English University Boat Race.

The winning University crew on Saturday only exemplified the rule, which has ever held good, that other things being equal, practice and training will surely tell, no matter what the work, whether painting with an Angelo, preaching with a Beecher or a Guthrie or opening oysters with a Dorlon; in short, that the professional is sure to beat the amateur. Not that the Cambridge crew were professionals, but were simply nearer so than the Oxford. The latter, for this reason and that, blunders about, and does not know whom she will have in her boat until scarcely two weeks before the event which, more than any other of the year, keeps her name before all English-speaking people. Then she comes in with a raw team, but two of them men who had rowed last year, though others were available, and is beaten worse than she was then by her rival, who has had her rowers earlier together, and five of them the same who did so well for her then (one of those she omits, by the way—Mr. Penbody—being, we believe, an American). Long ago we learned to manage better than this in this country, and already a large majority of those who expect to add renown to the names of their colleges or universities in a little over three months from now are determined on, and are hard at it over the rowing weights or on the river. These races demand great skill, and the fight is one for seconds, not minutes. Who doubts that, if the Oxford crew had been made up last year and kept together for many months, the result would have either been the other way or, at least, that Cambridge would have been no four lengths ahead when they passed the Ship Tavern at Mortlake? There was desperate pluck in the losing boat, as the mighty effort showed which drew her prow actually ahead when both crews sped by Chiswick church, and the Oxford partisans there sent up a roar which would have been worthy even of the Cincinnati Convention. But, good thing as is a magnificent spurt, it does not tell over a four or five mile course like the long, steady sweep; or, rather, it tells the wrong way, for after that tremendous one just named Oxford found that the strength had gone out from her and would not return, while her better trained and seasoned rival swept away from her hand over hand through the two whole miles to the goal.

Withal, as has been the rule in the majority of these interuniversity struggles, and as will doubtless continue the case where a hundred pounds of coxswain are to be carried, the victors were heavier than their antagonists. Yet, in comparison with our American rowing, it has, as heretofore, held good that the Englishmen somehow do outweigh us about ten pounds a man. Maybe if we had a coxswain to carry this would not be the fact, but it would partly even then. We are as well made in the arms and shoulders—better, perhaps—but they average stronger in the loins and legs. Then, again, their sports when boys build up and develop more strength and endurance than ours, and so there are likely to be more good men to pick from. Not only among our boys, but our young men too, there are far more weak than strong. Let any one who doubts this go this summer to one of our bath houses (which, by the way, should number twenty to where there is now one) or to the bathing beach and judge for himself. Only recently we heard of a gentleman who had been observing the students of one of our principal universities as they passed to and from recitation, and who was so much struck with the puny looks and general lack of force and vigor among them that he has been thinking seriously of taking steps to found a professorship of physical culture, the instructor to receive a salary of five thousand dollars, so that a man can be had at last who will fill such a position as it ought to be filled, as we have never yet heard that it had been filled in this country, and as it is filled at Oxford by a man of already international reputation—Professor MacLaren. Scattered such men as he is through the land—trained, experienced gymnastic instructors—men of such magnetism and power to lead as Dr. Dio Lewis used to display in teaching his light gymnastics and does now in fighting rum, and fewer of our business men would break down when or before they ought to be in their prime. Ministers would not have to be sent off for months of travel in Europe when they ought to be at home attending to their work, and there would be among us more well preserved old men, white haired, hale and hearty, not breaking down, like Sumner, at sixty-three—for it was his heart, not his head, that gave way—but, with Thiers, Palmerston and Brongham abroad and Bryant and Vanderbilt at home, taking a square look at eighty. We are unquestionably improving in this respect, but there is ample room yet. Books, such as those of MacLaren abroad or the admirable little one of Watson at home, will help some; but it is the judicious daily outdoor constitutional which we need most and must have, if we expect to long remain physically even as well off as we are.

SERRANO AND THE CARLISTS.—The actions before Bilbao have evidently not been so favorable to the republican forces as was represented at Madrid. The Carlists still hold their position before the town, and may defeat all efforts to relieve it. They have evidently checked the advance of Serrano's army, and unless reinforcements are sent forward the effort to pierce the lines may fail. Should the republican army retreat the effect on the defenders of Bilbao would, in all probability, be so demoralizing as to prevent further resistance. The immediate effect of a surrender would be extremely serious for Spain, and would lead to the indefinite prolongation of the war.

The possibility of a new issue of inconvertible paper I regard with amazement and anxiety, and, in my judgment, such an issue would be a detriment and a shame.—CHARLES SUMNER.